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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/808,324

03/25/2004

Jin-Doo Kim

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EXAMINER

HECKERT, JASON MARK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/808,324	Applicant(s) KIM, JIN-DOO	
	Examiner Jason Heckert	Art Unit 1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 4/26/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has only amended the claims to specify that the door-locking unit is located between the transparent part of the door and the frame of the door. Applicant has made no argument that Ramsauer's locking device, in combination with the other references, is different from the applicant's device. It is well within the skill of one practicing the art to relocate a device, such as a known door latch, to another area of the door or frame so long as the same functionality is provided. In this case, merely moving the latch so that it is in between the transparent part and the frame is not considered to be a patentably distinct feature from the prior art, because the door-locking unit still provides the same functionality of opening and closing the door.

Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1955). This was mentioned in the previous rejection but was not addressed by the applicant.

2. Furthermore, although drawn to a sliding door, Ramsauer still discloses the structures of the applicant's locking mechanism. The examiner *never* stated that Ramsauer is unrelated. In fact, Ramsauer's device is particularly relevant because it is drawn to a locking device of a machine casing, like the applicant's device. As claimed, the applicant's device contains no structure related to a washing machine, and therefore Ramsauer's device is still applicable.

3. Due to the applicant's amendments to the claims, the previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been rendered moot. Claims 25-27 are now included in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-11, 13-19, 22-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostdiek et al. in view of Ramsauer. Ramsauer discloses a locking mechanism for a machine casing, or cabinet, having a door 12. Ramsauer does not disclose the machine as being a washing machine, however no patentable weight is given to the limitation of "washing machine" considering the structure disclosed by the applicant is merely a cabinet and door, which Ramsauer fully discloses. The locking mechanism comprises a handle 20 attached to a first hinge unit at 104, a latch attached to a second hinge unit at 22, and an elastic unit 74 that biases said second hinge unit in a locked position. The handle part contains a first lever part, the majority of the bar, and a second lever part integrated with the first, the smaller tip 50. The first lever part is wider and longer than the second lever part. The latch contains a third lever part to the left of hinge 22, and a fourth lever part to the right of 22 with a hook 30 that fits in hole 114 in the cabinet. The third and fourth lever parts are integrated and the third is in contact with the second. When the first lever part is pulled, part 50 pushes the third lever part, and the elastic part 74 is compressed allowing the latch to be rotatably released. The latch penetrates a through-hole 120 in the door. The second hinge part comprises support members 46, rotatably supporting a hub with walls 56 and 58. Unit 22 has a shaft. Bearing 54 passes through the shaft and the hub and is supported by

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walls 56 and 58. The hub acts as the center of rotation for the latch. Members 48 are considered to function as brackets and have holes to allow the bearing to pass through which allow the latch to be mounted. The hook 30, which locks the door, is perpendicular to the fourth lever part, which extends outwardly through through-holes 114 and 120.

5. Ostdiek et al. teaches a washing machine with a transparent part (see Figure 1) mounted to a frame with an open center as well as a locking mechanism comprising latch 43 and latch receiving units 46 and 48 in the frame of the cabinet, which is common in the art. It would be obvious to implement any known locking mechanism known at the time of the invention, in the washing machine of Ostdiek et al.

Furthermore, rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1955). The locking mechanism of Ramsauer, which contains the structural limitations drawn to the applicant's locking mechanism, as stated above, could be implemented in the machine of Ostdiek et al, so that the door-locking unit is disposed between the transparent part and the frame. In regards to claims 7, 8, and 15, Ramsauer discloses a hinge for the latch assembly comprising parts 46 and 48 which read on support members and brackets as stated above. These parts further read on support projections and seats. The walls 56 and 58 are equivalent to stoppers.

Duplication of parts was held to have been obvious. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Beemis Co. Inc.* 193 USPQ 8, 11 (1977); *In re Harza* 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960). Since Ramsauer already discloses the equivalent structures associated with the second hinge at 22, it would be obvious to include the same structures with the first hinge at 104. In

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regards to claims 17 and 19, Ramsauer discloses third and fourth lever parts that operate with the first and second lever parts to provide the function of opening the door.

In the case of Ramsauer, the second lever part is perpendicular to the first.

Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1955). It would have been obvious to make the third part perpendicular to the fourth instead of the first part perpendicular to the second, thereby providing the same mechanical action. Noting that the handle part is perpendicular to the latch in the invention of Ramsauer, just as disclosed by the applicant, it could therefore be implemented so that the third lever part extends from the hub horizontally to the transparent part and the fourth lever part extends perpendicularly to the transparent part through the through-holes when implemented in a washing machine like that of Ostdiek et al. Ramsauer discloses the additional mechanical features of claims 6, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22-24 as stated previously. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Ostdiek et al., and include the locking mechanism of Ramsauer, to provide a door latch that is readily accessible to the user.

6. Claims 12, 20, and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostdiek et al. in view of Ramsauer and further in view of Onderka et al. As stated above, Ramsauer discloses a functionally equivalent locking mechanism including an elastic member that is compressed when the handle is actuated. This elastic member is in the form of a compressible spring, not a wound coil. Wound coils are well known in the art for providing biasing means. Onderka et al. discloses such a coil with legs 56 and 57 disposed about a hub 55 (Figure 10) for providing biasing means to a latch like

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that disclosed Ramsauer and the applicant. Furthermore, the spring legs are connected to each other by the body of the coil. In regards to the placement of the spring legs, or coil parts, rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1955). Onderka discloses all of the functional parts of the coil, and when implemented in place of the spring on Ramsauer, rearrangement of the legs to fit properly in between the bracket and hub would be obvious. However, independent of this rearrangement, the coil of Onderka is still a functional equivalent to the coil of the applicant. Upon the modification in view of Onderka, claim 21 is rejected on the same grounds as claims 17 and 19 as stated above in paragraph 5. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention, to modify Ostdiek et al. as stated above and include the locking mechanism of Ramsauer, and further modify Ramsauer and Ostdiek et al. by including a coil, as taught by Onderka, to provide biasing means of which motivation for is taught in both Ramsauer and Onderka.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

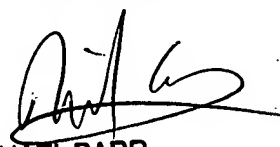
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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Heckert whose telephone number is (571) 272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

JMH